

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A bicycle sprocket adapted to rotate around a rotational axis, wherein the sprocket comprises:

a sprocket body;

a plurality of teeth extending radially outwardly from the sprocket body and dimensioned to engage a bicycle chain;

a spline ~~extending radially inwardly from the sprocket body that originates from and extends~~ radially inwardly from an innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body that forms an adjacent radially outwardly extending spline, wherein the spline terminates in a radially inwardly facing free end;

wherein the spline includes a radially outer surface facing radially outwardly; and

wherein the radially outer surface of the spline faces ~~a radially inner~~ the innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis.

CLAIM 2 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 3 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the ~~inner~~ innermost peripheral surface is substantially straight in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 4 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the ~~inner~~ innermost peripheral surface is substantially parallel to the rotational axis.

CLAIM 5 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the sprocket body has a side wall that includes a first side wall portion and a second side wall portion, wherein the plurality of teeth extend radially outwardly from the first side wall portion, and wherein the second side wall portion is laterally offset from the first side wall portion.

CLAIM 6 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 5 wherein the second side wall portion overlaps the outer surface when viewed in a direction parallel to the rotational axis.

CLAIM 7 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 6 wherein the second side wall portion is spaced apart from the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 8 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 6 wherein the spline is offset from the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 9 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 5 wherein the spline extends from the second side wall portion and terminates at [[a]] the free end, and wherein the free end is spaced apart from a first side wall of the first side wall portion that faces in a same direction as the free end.

CLAIM 10 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the sprocket body has a side wall that includes a first side wall portion and a second side wall portion, wherein the plurality of teeth extend radially outwardly from the first side wall portion, and wherein the second side wall portion and the spline together form a composite spline.

CLAIM 11 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 10 wherein a thickness of the spline in a direction of the rotational axis is greater than a thickness of the second side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 12 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 11 wherein a thickness of the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis substantially equals a thickness of the second side wall portion in the direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 13 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A bicycle sprocket adapted to rotate around a rotational axis, wherein the sprocket comprises:

a sprocket body;

a plurality of teeth extending radially outwardly from the sprocket body and dimensioned to engage a bicycle chain;

a spline extending radially inwardly from the sprocket body, wherein the spline has a root portion and a radially inner portion, wherein the root portion extends radially inwardly of the sprocket body and has a side wall facing in a rotational direction, and wherein the radially inner

portion extends radially inwardly of the root portion and has a side wall facing in the rotational direction;

wherein the spline originates from and extends radially inwardly from an innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body that forms an adjacent radially outwardly extending spline, wherein the spline terminates in a radially inwardly facing free end; and

wherein a thickness of the radially inner portion of the spline in a direction parallel to the rotational axis is greater than a thickness of the root portion of the spline in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 14 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 13 wherein the sprocket body has a side wall that includes a first side wall portion, wherein the plurality of teeth extend radially outwardly from the first side wall portion, wherein a thickness of the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis substantially equals a thickness of the root portion of the spline in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 15 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 1 ~~wherein the spline originates from and extends radially inwardly from an innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body that forms an adjacent radially outwardly extending spline, wherein the spline terminates in a radially inwardly facing free end, and~~ wherein the radially outer surface of the spline that faces radially outwardly is disposed radially inwardly from the radially outermost portion of the ~~inner~~ innermost peripheral surface that forms the radially outwardly extending spline.

CLAIM 16 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 15 wherein the plurality of teeth are one-piece with and extend radially outwardly from the sprocket body.

CLAIM 17 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 18 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim ~~17~~ 13 wherein the plurality of teeth are one-piece with and extend radially outwardly from the sprocket body.